

22 Years Ago at JSC

U.S., Russia conduct first joint meeting in space

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“Contact. Capture,” were the words spoken by Commander Tom Stafford as America’s Apollo spacecraft linked with the Soviet Union’s Soyuz. “Docking is completed,” he told mission controllers at JSC.

This act, described by many as the culminating point of the mission—brought into reality the May 1972 agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union to work together toward a common docking system for future generations.

The development of compatible rendezvous and docking systems will enhance the safety of manned flights in space and will provide for opportunities for conducting joint experiments in the future

Following docking, commander Stafford and Donald K. “Deke” Slayton were the first to enter the

passageway between the Apollo and Soyuz. They remained in the Soyuz spacecraft about three hours participating in such activities as an exchange of flags, signing of flight certificates, and eating the first international meal in space.

President Ford congratulated each crew member and asked them a number of questions. Leonid Brezhnev also radioed congratulations to the crews.

In all, four crew transfers took place and a number of joint scientific experiments and engineering investigations were performed during these transfers. The crews also shared meals. During transfers there was always at least one host crew member in each spacecraft, no more than three men were in Apollo at one time and no more than two were Soyuz.

During joint mission periods, the Apollo crew communicated with their Soviet counterparts in Russian while the cosmonauts replied

in English. Crew members communicate with their respective control centers in their native language.

The two spacecraft separated for the final time Saturday morning. Soyuz is scheduled to touchdown July 21, while Apollo remains in orbit as Stafford, Slayton and Brand conduct a number of unilateral space sciences, life sciences and applications experiments.

The Apollo command module is scheduled to splashdown at 4:18 p.m. CDT July 24 in the Pacific Ocean about 345 miles west of Hawaii.

Obviously, conversations will evolve around ASTP for a long time to come. There is indeed much to be said about such a mission. As far as the successful docking is concerned, however, U.S. Program manager for the ASTP mission Chester Lee probably put it best when he said: “I believe today’s activities speak for themselves.”



JSC Photo AST-03-191

Apollo 18 Commander Tom Stafford and Soyuz 19 Cosmonaut Aleksei Leonov, with camera, meet in the hatchway leading from the Apollo Docking Module to the Soyuz Orbital Module during the joint Apollo Soyuz Test Project docking in space. The Apollo crew of Stafford, Docking Module Pilot Deke Slayton and Command Module Pilot Vance Brand met up with the Soyuz 19 crew members Leonov and Flight Engineer Valeri Kubasov July 17, 1975.

Men’s softball tournament set

The Gilruth Center will host a men's open preseason softball round-robin tournament Saturday, Aug. 19 and registration is currently under way for the men's double header softball league.

The 1997 American Softball Association softball rules will apply during the tournament and first place winners will receive T-shirts. Entry fee is \$125.

In addition, the Gilruth tournament rules also will apply. These rules require that teams use .47 Core Gilruth issued balls only; teams may start with eight players; game time is forfeit time; two home run limit; bat-

ter starts with 1-1 count; 15 run rule after three innings, 10 runs after five innings; 55 minutes or seven innings; international tie breaker will be used; no steel cleats; protests to be settled on the spot; roster forms and entry fees must be turned in prior to first game.

In addition, teams may sign up for the men's open double header softball league. Cost is \$275 per team and registration will continue until enough teams register. Season length is about five to six weeks.

For additional information, call x33345.

Gilruth Center News

- Hours:** The Gilruth Center will now remain open until 2 p.m. Saturday and close at 9 p.m. Friday.
- Sign up policy:** All classes and athletic activities are first come, first served. Sign up in person at the Gilruth Center and show a yellow Gilruth badge or weight room badge. Classes tend to fill up two weeks in advance. Payment must be made in full, in exact change or by check, at the time of registration. No registration will be taken by telephone. For more information, call x30304.
- Gilruth badges:** Required for use of the Gilruth Center. Employees, spouses, eligible dependents, NASA retirees and spouses may apply for photo identification badges from 7:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday; and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays. Cost is \$10. Dependents must be between 16 and 23 years old.
- NASA Fitness Challenge:** Runs through Aug. 31. Call x30301 for more information.
- Hatha Yoga:** A stress relieving, stretching and breathing exercise routine to unite body, mind and spirit. Classes meet from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Thursdays. Cost is \$40 for eight weeks.
- Nutrition intervention program:** A six-week program to learn more about the role diet and nutrition play in health, including lectures, private consultations with a dietitian and blood analysis. Program is open to all employees, contractors and spouses. For more information call Tammie Shaw at x32980.
- Defensive driving:** One-day course is offered once a month. Pre-registration required. Cost is \$25. Call for next available class.
- Stamp club:** Meets at 7 p.m. every second and fourth Monday in Rm. 216.
- Weight safety:** Required courses for employees wishing to use the weight room will be offered from 8-9:30 p.m. Next class is Aug. 14 and 28. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$5. Annual weight room use fee is \$90. Additional family members are \$50.
- Exercise:** Low-impact class meets from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Cost is \$24 for eight weeks.
- Aikido:** Introductory martial arts class meets from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday. Cost is \$35 per month. New classes begin the first of each month.
- Aerobics:** Classes meet from 5:15-6:15 p.m. Monday, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cost is \$32 for eight weeks. Kristen Maidlow, instructor.
- Ballroom dancing:** Beginner classes meet from 7-8:15 p.m. Thursdays. Intermediate and advanced classes meet from 8:15-9:30 p.m. Cost is \$60 per couple.
- Country and western dancing:** Beginner class meets 7-8:30 p.m. Monday. Advanced class (must know basic steps to all dances) meets 8:30-10 p.m. Monday. Cost is \$20 per couple.
- Fitness program:** Health Related Fitness Program includes a medical screening examination and a 12-week individually prescribed exercise program. For more information call Larry Wier at x30301.
- Gilruth Home Page:** Check out all activities at the Gilruth online at: <http://www4.jsc.nasa.gov/ah/exceaa/Gilruth/Gilruth.htm>

Ticket Window

- The following discount tickets are available for purchase in the Bldg. 11 Exchange Store from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday and in the Bldg. 3 Exchange Store from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday - Friday. For more information call x35350 or x30990.
- Loving Feelings Concert:** 8 p.m. Sept. 27 at the Summit. Tickets are \$38.
- EAA Texaribbean Cruise:** Nov. 22-30. \$200 deposit per person, final payment by Sept. 15.
- Astroworld:** \$22.75. Season pass \$56.75. Multi-visit \$37.50.
- Waterworld:** \$11.50.
- Moody Gardens:** Tickets are \$9.50 for 2 of 4 events.
- Space Center Houston:** Adult \$8.95; children (4-11) \$6.40.
- Seaworld:** Adult \$27.25; children (3-11) \$18.25.
- Schlitterbahn:** Adult \$20.25; children \$17.50.
- Splashtown:** Adult \$14.50; children (3-9) \$11.50.
- Movie discounts:** General Cinema, \$5.25; AMC Theater, \$4.50; Sony Loew's Theater, \$4.75.
- JSC logo shirts:** T-shirt, \$10, Polo style, \$23.
- Stamps:** Book of 20, \$6.40.
- Metro tickets:** Passes, books and single tickets available.
- Orbit:** The book *Orbit* by Jay Apt, Mike Helfert and Justin Wilkinson is on sale for \$28.

Manager’s Message

By John Casper
Director, Safety, Reliability and Quality Assurance



Casper

If Stephen King wrote that dangerous monsters roam the JSC site, weighing anywhere from a few thousand to several thousand pounds, moving swiftly on rubber-like feet, and with an aggressive, sometimes unreliable disposition, you would probably go to great lengths to stay out of their way.

Why, then, do we routinely see otherwise reasonable, intelligent people lunge fearlessly into a crosswalk, almost as a test of wills, in front of a 4,000-pound piece of machinery, looking neither left nor right, but assuming their safety to be implicit—as if protected by some impenetrable shield?

I see an unsettling number of Close Call Reports (28 in the past 6 months) that skirt the edge of disaster and have comments like these.

- “Near hit. Driver made eye contact only moments before moving through the crosswalk.”
- “A streetlight was out over the walkway. A pedestrian in dark clothes literally stepped out of the dark almost in front of my car.”
- “Van failed to stop. I had to jump back to avoid being hit.”
- “We were two to three feet in the crosswalk. The driver never

thought about stopping.”

- “Right lane car stopped. Speeding left lane car slammed brakes and slid into the walkway.”
- “A Metro bus driver almost hit two pedestrians at the crosswalk.”

True, in many cases the driver may have been at fault, but it's a little bit like the argument about right-of-way (which on-site pedestrians have). If you have a serious collision and suffer injuries because of it, right-of-way doesn't seem nearly so important as what could have been done to avoid the end result.

Drivers may not always see the pedestrian. They may be distracted. They may be visitors from off-site and not know the rules. Or, out of rude disdain, they may speed deliberately to get by you. Regardless, the pedestrian shares responsibility for a safe crossing and should not assume that right-of-way will be observed.

My suggestion is simple. Take charge for your life. Don't leave it up to the driver to look out for you, lest you become the subject of a Close Call report, or worse—a statistic.